



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *108th* CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 149

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2003

No. 59

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable NORM COLEMAN, a Senator from the State of Minnesota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Douglas John Waite, CDR, CHC, USN, who is Deputy Chaplain of the U.S. Coast Guard.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Our God, thank You for being with us today and every day. Please draw near to us here now in the United States Senate as our Senators labor to accomplish tasks that will benefit Your people the world over.

Lord, You have placed each and every Senator in their positions for this time in our Nation's and the world's history. Impress upon them altogether how You have handpicked them for the affairs at hand. May they seek Your guidance and direction in every discussion, deliberation and vote. Grant them the light of Your presence that leads nearer to the kingdom You are building.

Thank You for all those who have gone before us. May we in this generation continue to pass on the legacy of exceptional leadership our country's ancestors left to us. We ask these things boldly in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable NORM COLEMAN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS.)

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC., April 11, 2003.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable NORM COLEMAN, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COLEMAN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 10 a.m., with the time equally divided between the Senator from Texas and the Democratic leader or their designees.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic whip is recognized.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, one of the things we kicked around late yesterday was whether or not on this side we would agree to allow Deborah Cook to be voted on prior to Jeffrey Sutton. The answer is yes. I have spoken to the necessary parties—the majority leader, Senator LEAHY—and we would be agreeable to have Cook be voted on at

the time previously scheduled for Sutton. We would agree to do Sutton the following week under the same terms and conditions we had for him. That will be the Monday and Tuesday we get back. I have also spoken with Senator HARKIN, who has concerns about Sutton and wanted considerable time to speak on that. He also agreed. That offer is out there if the majority wants to accept it.

I also announce we have scheduled today at 10:30 the conference on the supplemental, so Members should know we are finally going to go to conference on that and hopefully complete that some time today.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas is recognized.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, Senator FRIST, I announce the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 10 a.m. Following morning business, the Senate may begin consideration of the budget resolution conference report which passed the House early this morning. In addition to the budget conference report, the Senate will complete action on the supplemental appropriations conference report when it becomes available, and the Senate may consider S. 196, the digital technology bill.

The majority leader wishes me to say we have a lot of work to get done prior to adjourning for the Easter recess. I inform my colleagues, therefore, that votes are possible throughout the day and Senators should make plans to be here into the evening.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I apologize to the Senator from Texas; I did not know she was acting as the majority leader and I would not have sought recognition. I apologize to the Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I thank the Senator. I understood that.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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